

God our Father, we ask your protection against the Coronavirus that has claimed lives and affected many.

We pray for your grace for the people tasked with studying the nature of this virus and of stemming the tide of its transmission.

Guide the hands and minds of the medical experts to minister to the sick with competence and compassion, and guide government and private agencies to find a cure and solution to this epidemic.

We pray for those afflicted.

May they be restored to health soon.

Grant us the grace to work for the good of all and to help those in need.

I ask for your special providence and protection for our country, my family and my friends. Please send your Holy Spirit to protect us from this virus. And may Mary, our Blessed Mother, place over us her mantle of protection. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

missio
new zealand

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PANDEMIC

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Centre down.

And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)
Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.

— Lynn Ungar, 11 March 2020

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